

Mexico

Sian Ka'an



Declaration date: 1986

Surface area: 528,148 ha

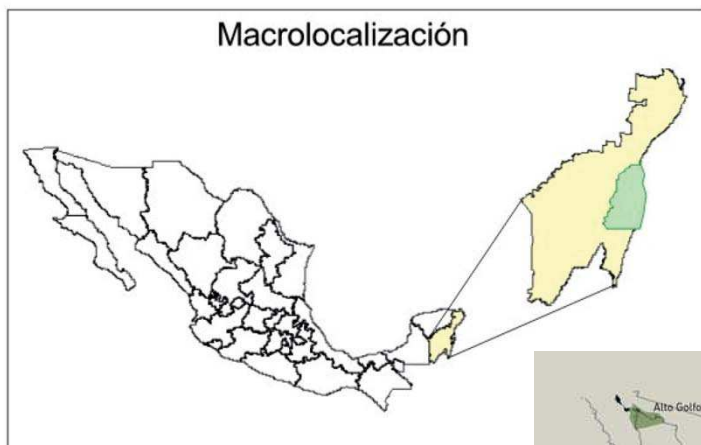
Administrative division: Municipalities of Felipe Carrillo Puerto and Othón P. Blanco, State of Quintana Roo.

Human activities:

Fishing and nautical sports tourism

Ecological characteristics:

In Mayan, Sian Ka'an means "The sky's birthplace." The Biosphere Reserve is located in the most recent strip of the Yucatan Peninsula. It has a 120 coral reef barrier, an area of sea grasses, seasonal creeks, mangroves, coastal lagoons, swamps, fresh-water savannahs, inland lakes and seasonally flooded forests. It contains close on 150,000 ha of protected deciduous and sub-evergreen forests. The flora is very similar to that of the region of the Gulf of Mexico and the Antilles, with 1,048 species including algae, mosses, ferns and higher plants. Fauna inventories show 103 species of mammals, 339 species of birds with 219 of them residents and 120 migrant or temporary species, 90 species of native bees, 47 species of dragonflies, 74 of beetles, 310 species of dipterans and 318 species of daytime butterflies. Among the marine invertebrates, mention should be made of the 84 species of coral and the 276 species of crustaceans. Recently new species of soil fauna have been described which have been named after the Biosphere Reserve. It appears to be the location in Mexico with the most similarity to the Antilles. It is a nesting area for turtles, sea and marshland birds, and is notorious for its special life developing in underground, flooded galleries.



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